

## BERLIN OFFER AIMS TO DISRUPT ALLIES

Sham "Acceptance" of Wilson Terms Intended to Cause Diplomatic Clash.

### KAISER FRAMES "PEACE"

Max Insisted on Retention of Alsace-Lorraine and Upheld Prussia.

By J. E. MCKENRIE, Former Berlin Correspondent of the "London Times."

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times Service.

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LONDON, Oct. 15.—German newspapers of October 6 and 7, which have reached London, shed a flood of fresh light on the German peace offensive. The "acceptance" of President Wilson's terms is incomplete, inasmuch as it provides the offensive is intended to drive a wedge between the allied Powers and the United States just as the military offensive last spring was intended to separate the French and British armies.

The point of attack now is the junction between allied and American diplomacy, as the point of attack then was the junction of the two armies. The only remedy now, as then, is rapid unification. The political offensive, like the military drive, is conducted by the Kaiser.

On October 7 the King of Bavaria said in an appeal to "my brave army": "His majesty the Kaiser has offered peace to the enemy in order to make an end of unending bloodshed; yet unbent will the army and the people stand as firm as a rock in the will to carry through the fight to the very end if we are forced to continue it."

As has been suspected the new Chancellor's speech in the Reichstag was altered for transmission abroad. In reality Prince Maximilian insisted both upon the dominant status of Prussia and the retention of Alsace-Lorraine. The following passage of the speech was deleted before it reached us: "In view of the predominant position of Prussia in the empire the Prussian franchise question is a German question. I hold unshakably that the federative foundations of the empire is a federated state whose individual members determine the complete independence of their internal constitutional life, a right to which Alsace-Lorraine also has full claim. The independence and diversity of life in the individual federal states and the close relationship uniting every German with his own country and the head of the federated states are the head and source from which have flowed throughout the whole war the indescribable strength and patriotism and spirit of sacrifice of the whole German people."

What followed the Chancellor's speech is of special interest. The Reichstag was hastily adjourned in order that there should be no debate on the discrepancies between the German programme and President Wilson's fourteen points; above all, no debate on Alsace-Lorraine and Poland.

posing that debate should proceed Herr Haase, Socialist minority leader, said: "Every house, every workshop, every cottage awaits the fateful decision before us, and it will be eagerly discussed. The Reichstag, however, shuts itself up at the very minute when an attempt is being made to democratize German institutions. We consider this decision harmful to the interest of the masses of the people."

The Berlin correspondent of the *Munchener Neueste Nachrichten* refers to the fact that Herr Seyda tried in vain to open the debate on the ground that one of President Wilson's fourteen points referred to the Polish question. The correspondent adds that the Reichstag was spared a reminder of President Wilson's eighth point, concerning Alsace-Lorraine.

Herr Ebert was in the room at the time, he having succeeded Scheidemann as head of the Socialist majority, as was "His Excellency" Herr Scheidemann. (The Kaiser has conferred the title of "Excellency" on Scheidemann for his term of office, the other Secretaries being exonerated for life.) Scheidemann strongly supported closing the Reichstag on the ground that debate might imperil the whole German programme.

I have searched through many German newspapers for a single suggestion that Wilson's peace terms have really been accepted. The whole press conveys the impression that the President's terms are accepted only as a basis of discussion, and there is the strongest intimation running all through the comment that some of the terms are absolutely unacceptable to Germany.

Objections to Terms.

The following quotation from the *Munchener Neueste Nachrichten* is typical: "President Wilson's principles, taken together, are to serve as the basis for the common solution of all the political problems of Europe. They contain numerous details which are entirely in accord with the vital necessities of the German Empire. The realization of others, however, would strike at the very marrow of our existence and would be incompatible with the honor of our people. It remains to be seen whether our opponents really have sense enough not to make impossible demands on the Central Empire."

The Berlin *Lokal Anzeiger* of October 7 says: "Only two of President Wilson's demands, since they are irreconcilable with the Reichstag resolution of July, 1917, can be regarded as already rejected, and Wilson will have to consider whether he wants to continue the murder and hatred in a mere attempt to realize them. One is the demand for the cession of Alsace-Lorraine. This attempt to violate German territory is rejected. And if Herr Wilson in his thirteenth point understands that any Prussian territory shall be incorporated in the Polish State to be created he will have to realize that this demand is not compatible with the Reichstag resolution, which will, for the whole German nation, stand as the basis of any peace negotiations."

On the same day that this was printed the Socialist paper *Vorwaerts* blandly assumed that Wilson and the German people were now one, and that the only question was whether the Entente statesmen would continue to stand in the way.

Finally it is worth while to note the statement of Georg Bernhard in the *Vossische Zeitung* that the new Chancellor is merely trying another peace offensive of the old kind. He makes the interesting observation that the Reichstag listened in key silence while "once Maximilian read his note that was to be sent to Wilson, and says: "Is the new Government different from its predecessors in its fundamental conceptions of foreign policy?"

After yesterday's speech one must deny it. What the Chancellor said was not a new policy. It was merely a peace offer differing only in shading and in definiteness of conditions from other offers already made on previous occasions by the Central Powers jointly, and on the last occasion by Austria-Hungary alone."

## ALLIES FIRM FOR WILSON DEMANDS

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The Allies are determined to let Germany know that conditions of peace will be dictated to them and that is the same as unconditional surrender by the Hun.

Sir John Simon said: "President Wilson's historic answer I believe will be approved universally by this country. It drives a wedge between the German people and the military autocracy, which heretofore has directed German policy, and leaves the people to choose whether they will find salvation by overthrowing the autocracy; there is no other way of recovering and establishing the peace for which humanity is yearning."

President Wilson's terms have been received with great satisfaction in labor circles, as they accord completely with the demands of British labor adopted at the recent trade union congress at Derby, that no peace terms should be discussed while the Germans remained on Allied territory.

Not a dissenting word was found in the editorials of the evening papers, all of which commented on President Wilson's reply to the German peace note. All acknowledge with great satisfaction that the Allies possess an immense advantage in having a spokesman who speaks so resolutely to the front the necessity of destroying the Prussian military system and the Government responsible for it.

President Wilson is applauded for hammering home this fundamental truth, just as Marshal Foch is hammering the German armies, as the only sufficient guarantee of good faith of the will to peace of the German people.

Right Thing in Right Place.

"Once more," says the *Evening Star*, "President Wilson has said the right thing in the right place. 'Surrender or civilization' is written across the German Empire in indelible letters and neither the Kaiser nor the Junkers can erase them. The German people must choose between democracy and autocracy; between Kaiserism and Liberty."

"The choice is theirs alone, for only with a free German people will the free nations deal. The declaration in the Mount Vernon speech that every arbitrary power that can separately or secretly of its single choice disturb the peace of the world must be destroyed or reduced to virtual impotence decrees the doom of the Kaiser and his house and enunciated the Magna Charta."

The *Pall Mall Gazette* observes: "The same things that President Wilson says have been said before, in our own columns and elsewhere; but never before were they said with such a dramatic setting. When the German war lords set up their democratic doll's house in Berlin and invited President Wilson on the strength of it to stay Foch's hand the played a remarkably maladroite move. 'They have got Mr. Wilson's reply out in a form they little expected. There is not a household in Germany to which the President's words will not penetrate. There is not a soldier or civilian who will not realize that to jettison the Kaiser and his Generals and the whole hierarchy of Prussianism is the first step toward peace.'"

are other Powers, besides the United States in this war," remarks the *Globe*. "This shows a loyalty we naturally expected from him. He declines to expect promise us, or to tie the hands of Foch, Haase, Parschong or Diaz, who will now determine what guarantees shall be given for an armistice."

In Complete Accord.

The *Evening Standard* declares itself in complete accord with President Wilson's reply, and continues: "It is the right note. Our only regret is that there is no reference to punishment for the German rulers who are responsible for the war in the first place, and for the atrocities at sea, the burning and looting of villages, the brutal treatment of prisoners and the enslavement of civilians."

"President Wilson's note should be received by a joint declaration from the Allies laying down the conditions Germany must accept."

Referring to the conditions imposed upon Germany of seeking an armistice from Marshal Foch, the *Evening News* believes "that as yet there is no change of heart among the German people. It will come, however, wholly through the overmastering power of fear."

## PARISIANS JUBILANT OVER WILSON REPLY

Note Is Published in Extras of Afternoon Papers.

PARIS, Oct. 15.—President Wilson's reply to Germany was given to the public in extra editions of the afternoon newspapers published at noon to-day. It immediately became the absorbing topic of discussion in all public places. The tone of the sentiment was distinctly favorable to the reply, the prevailing note being one of jubilation.

The President's position against an armistice without guarantees particularly appealed to prevailing French opinion.

"A Straight Blow" is the caption of an article by Jean Igerette, foreign editor of the *Temps*, to-day, dealing with President Wilson's latest reply to Germany, which he finds not only satisfactory in every sense, but says will be received in France with gratitude for the manner in which it stigmatizes Germany's crimes.

After President Wilson's first reply to Germany, the editorial begins, German official representatives rejoiced that the conversation could continue. It is doubtful now, the article continues, if they rejoice at having opened the conversation.

"The Government at Berlin is now obliged to allow the reply to appear in every newspaper in Germany," says the editorial. "It will not consolidate Chancellor Max's position, weakened by his unfortunate letter, nor Vice-Chancellor von Payer's, who made the annexationist speech, nor Dr. Baumbach (German Foreign Secretary), who was Secretary of State when Belgium was invaded."

"It will not consolidate the authority of the Prussian staff nor the personal prestige of the Kaiser, nor the popularity of the dynasty or imperial regime. The directors of Germany sought public debate. They have it. The final result is that they appear in the eyes of their people, gasping for peace, as the principal obstacles to peace."

Separate Reply to Austria.

The writer welcomes President Wilson's decision to send a separate reply to Austria-Hungary, and in this connection says: "A single reply would have been to sanction their alliance, which was one of the principal causes of the war, and the destruction of which is one of the essential conditions of peace."

La Liberté says that the clearness of President Wilson's reply to Germany is

such that it will rejoice the Allies, because it fulfills the desires of all.

Intelligent says: "It is a clear and magnificent reply, inspired by right justice and humanity, and would only be weakened by comment. If it closes the door to the present German directors as negotiators it leaves it open to the German people."

During a discussion in the Senate to-day of the damages suffered by northern France without military justification Stephen Pichon, the French Foreign Minister, reiterated the Government's resolution to exact full compensation and reparation.

"Furthermore," the Foreign Minister continued, "this warning has just been given in decisive form by President Wilson in his admirable reply to the proposal for an armistice from Berlin. The President of the United States, in whose resolutions we always have had entire confidence, has signified that he refuses, like ourselves, to negotiate an armistice with a State whose armies continue to dishonor themselves by acts of desolation, devastation and savagery."

Winning for Peace.

"Germany with defeat threatening to become a headlong rout now whines about peace," said William M. Hughes, Premier of Australia, at a luncheon given yesterday by M. Pichon, at which all the members of the French Cabinet were present.

"Endeavoring to induce President Wilson to intercede for her," Premier Hughes continued, "Germany evades the plain, blunt questions of the President, hoping to gain time to extricate herself from her fatal position and to save the Kaiser and the German Kings and Princes in the last stronghold of kings and military despotism."

After pointing out that Germany is the best equipped European country to enter on peace, the Premier said: "The most rebuilt the ruined French and Belgian cities, replace the stolen machinery, restore the patterns and trade secrets and compensate the manufacturers and workmen. Until then we cannot and will not admit her to the family of nations nor give her a share of our raw materials."

ENDING GERMAN DOMINATION.

Seeb Leader Says Disruption Is Only Remedy for Austria.

"Austria-Hungary must be completely broken up if German domination is to be excluded," Vladimir Savic, former member of the Serbian Foreign Office and editor of the *Belgrade New Times*, declared last night in an address to the Columbia University Institute of Arts and Science in Horace Mann Auditorium. "It is quite impossible to deprive the Germans of the controlling position in Austria-Hungary," he said. "They are the most numerous of her nationalities. They occupy the leading position, politically, financially, commercially and scientifically. They are better organized than any others. They are trained to use as the others are trained to obey. The preservation of Austria-Hungary is the last chance for Pan-German to see their dream realized at another time."

700,000 CASUALTIES IN 1918.

British Total Covers 39 Weeks of Fighting.

The approximate British casualties from the beginning of 1918 to the end of September have been more than 700,000, according to an announcement made yesterday by the British Bureau of Information at 511 Fifth avenue. The figures were contained in a cable message received from London and included thirty-nine weeks of fighting.

The lowest figures for a single week were 4,126 and the highest more than 10,000. The summary, it was explained, does not include the losses in the recent continuous heavy fighting, as these have not yet been totaled.

## PLEA FOR PEACE IS VON HINDENBURG'S

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at any price. Prince Maximilian, according to the report, opposed the peace move, thus showing his pro-Junker leanings. Hence when the time for the signing of the appeal came Dr. Golt attached his name in place of the Chancellor.

The President has not replied to either the Austrian or Turkish peace note, which were identical with the German. He may be in no hurry to do so. It is understood, however, that Great Britain has replied to Turkey and that the reply calls flatly for unconditional surrender along the lines adopted by the Government of Bulgaria. It is suggested to Turkey that she apply to Gen. Allenby, the British commander in chief of the victorious Palestine forces for terms.

Officials here are particularly interested in watching the effect of the President's note to Germany on the governments of Austria-Hungary and Turkey. That it will remove their last hope of getting peace through the diplomatic efforts of their chief ally is the confident expectation in official circles here.

Object of the Delay.

It is with a view of letting this conviction sink into the minds of the peoples first that this Government will probably delay in answering the separate peace pleas of Germany's vassal allies.

So far as the effect of the President's ultimatum to the German people is concerned varying views are held even in Cabinet circles. Optimism runs high with some who take the view that with the issue of Kaiserism plainly put before the German people by the President there will develop social disturbances and a real and effective upheaval from within against the system which the President regards as a menace to the peace of the world.

On the other hand there is a pronounced opinion, shared particularly by diplomats, that the Kaiser may succeed in rallying his people more than ever before by his cry of war for existence. One Cabinet member counseled to-day against the public being deluded by the idea that Germany was on the verge of a breakdown.

Her troops, he pointed out, are apparently conducting a fairly well executed retreat with a view of giving battle from interior lines. Her defenses are still very strong and there may be many months more of war ahead.

There is nothing authentic to show that the Kaiser's grip on the German people has really weakened. The rumors of the Kaiser's abdication or of the demand of the German people for the elimination of militarism are regarded by some officials as part of a skillfully planned German Government propaganda put out and circulated in enemy countries for the purpose of deceiving.

There is reason to believe that the German people were not really as ready as they seemed to accept terms imposed by President Wilson. The general idea prevalent in Germany seems to have been that acceptance of the President's terms simply meant a distraction as to peace issues and the Germans were ready to trust to their diplomats to rescue them now that the military tide has turned.

Up to a late hour to-night no hint had come as to how the President's reply was received in Germany. Many here believe that the Kaiser and war lords will use it to rally the people to further war sacrifices and that at the same time will seek to place the blame for continuing the war on his enemies.

Czechs to Call Strike in Prague.

PRAGUE, Oct. 15.—The Czech-Slav National Council has decided to call a general strike at Prague, according to a Vienna despatch to the *Frankfort Gazette*. The move is made in protest against the exportation of foodstuffs out of Bohemia.

Fight Sulphuric Acid Fire.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Oct. 15.—Fire in the Graessell Chemical Company's sulphuric acid plant early to-day caused a loss of \$175,000. Firemen with water soaked handkerchiefs tied over their mouths and noses fought the flames in dense clouds of smoke.

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